



The Journal of *News Science*

Vol. 15, No. 2, Ser.58, summer 2026, P. 10- 14

Journal homepage: <https://www.mjourcom.ir/>

DOI : <http://doi.org/10.22034/lrsi.2026.566625.1492>

Open Access

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

A Study of the Components and Challenges of Mobile Journalism: A Thematic Analysis Approach

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Received: December 16, 2025

Accepted: June 7, 2026

EXTENDED ABSTRACT

Introduction:

Today, the digital media landscape is fragmented and increasingly defined. Citizens of the information age now experience easy access to up-to-date news anytime and anywhere through digital and mobile journalism. This ease of access and the speed of news dissemination have attracted audiences and led to a growing trend among users toward online news. With the advancement of technology and the expanding use of mobile phones and smart devices, the concept of new media and new media activities has also emerged. One such activity is mobile journalism, or reporting using mobile phones. This research aimed to analyze the components of mobile journalism using a content analysis approach.

This research can contribute to a better and deeper understanding of the concept, characteristics, methods, and effects of mobile journalism on journalism. By utilizing this type of research, it is possible to identify and evaluate the strengths and weaknesses, opportunities, and threats of mobile journalism.

Without conducting research on mobile journalism, it is not possible to fully understand the impact and effects of media on society and culture. A lack of information and knowledge about mobile journalism can hinder progress and development in this field. Research related to mobile journalism can guide media outlets, journalists, media activists, and even audiences in this field, and provide appropriate strategies to improve their performance and efficiency.

Method:

The present study is an exploratory study. The method of this qualitative research is "theme analysis," and semi-structured interviews were used in its implementation. The statistical population of this study consisted of reporters, journalists, professors, and managers in the media field. The method used in this part of the research was a semi-structured interview. Professors, experts, and other relevant individuals were asked about the existing space, the desired space, and how to achieve and realize the desired space, based on the research topic. The number of participants in this study was 20. That is, 20 people were selected from among professors, media managers, reporters and journalists, and mobile journalism audiences in the following order:

- Media managers (4 people)
- Media professors (4 people)
- Reporters (4 people)
- Journalists (4 people)
- Actual mobile journalism audiences (4 people)

Findings:

After content analysis of 20 interviews, out of a total of 165 key points, 157 basic themes (new) and 53 organizing themes (new) were obtained, which, with the help of the content analysis method, resulted in 6 comprehensive themes (audience domain, content domain, access domain, infrastructure and laws domain, harm to communities, and the spread of fake news) as general factors of mobile journalism.

Conclusion:

The results indicate that the overarching theme of "audience" with 16 organizing themes (increasing superficiality in people, vulgarizing the audience's taste, increasing the audience's persuasion, etc.) has the most organizing themes. Also, the overarching themes of "content" and "spreading fake news" are ranked next with 14 and 7 organizing themes each. Furthermore, the political harm of mobile journalism, the socio-cultural harm of mobile journalism, the personal harm of mobile journalism, the increase in public distrust, the manipulation of opinions, and public polarization are among the organizing themes of "harms of mobile journalism."

Data Availability Statement.

Data available on request from the authors.

Acknowledgements

The authors would like to thank anonymous reviewers.

Ethical considerations

Not applicable.

Funding

Not applicable.

Conflict of interest

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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Cite this article: Khatibzadeh, S. & Hoseyni, S.A. (2026), A Study of the Components and Challenges of Mobile Journalism: A Thematic Analysis Approach, *News Science*, 15 (2), 10-14.

DOI : <http://doi.org/10.22034/lrsi.2026.566625.1492>



Publisher: Press Institute for Contemporary International Journalism (PICIJ)
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DOI: <http://doi.org/10.22034/lrsi.2026.566625.1492>
